Target for the construction of new railway lines

443. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the target fixed by Government for the construction of new rail lines in the country during the year 1990-91 particularly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(b) what was the target during 1988-89 and 1989-90; and

(c) whether the target was fully achieved, if not, the reasons thereof and details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Target for New Lines in 1990-91 will depend upon the allocation of funds by the Planning Commission under the plan-head "New Lines".

(b) and (c) Position of targets for New Lines fixed and achieved, is as under:—

	1988-89		1989-90	
	Target fixed	Target achieved	Target Fixed	Anticipated achievement
All India	306 km	306 km	333 km	333 km
Andhra Pradesh	. .	. .	. .	. .
Karnataka	. .	. .	35 km	35 km
Tamil Nadu	74 km	74 km	. .	. .

Atrocities on Scheduled Castes in the country

444. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the incidents of atrocities on Scheduled Castes in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) As against 13,529 total number of atrocities registered in the year 1987 for the country as a whole, the figure for the year 1988 is 15,207 Complete information for the year 1989 is not available. The State-wise details for the years 1987, 1988 and 1989 (to the extent available) are given in the statement attached (*see* below).

(c) Due guidelines have been issued to States/Union Territories to prevent atrocities on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, etc. The Government have enacted the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, which defines the offences of atrocities and provides for punishment to offenders. The State Governments have been advised to specify Special Courts, notify Special Public Prosecutors and take other preparatory measures for enforcement of the Act and the last communication on this is a letter dated 28.12.1989 addressed to all Chief Ministers.